Def. Doc. No. 2493

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al

-VS -

ARAKI, Sadao, et al

SWORN DEPOSITION

Deponent: MATSUMOTO, Takizo

Having first duly sworn an oath as on attached sheet and in accordance with the procedure followed in my country I hereby depose as follows.

AFFIDAVIT

Name : Takizo Matsumoto

Birthplace: Hiroshima, Japan

20 March 1901

Occupation: Professor at Meiji University:

Member of House of Representatives;

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Education: Went to the United States at the age of three. Finished Fresno High School. Later returned to

Japan to finish Koryo Middle School and Meiji University. Again went to the United States to finish graduate work at Harvard University.

I hereby wish to make the following testimony.

As I recall, it was in late October 1938, when I was on the Pacific Coast en route to Japan after finishing my graduate work at Harvard, that I ran across an article in English concerning the former General Araki. It was in the English section of a Japanes.

Def. Doc. No. 2493 paper orinted on the Pacific Voast. The article was a statement made by General Araki to the effect that all Niseis having American citizenship should be faithful to America even in case there should ever be an armed conflict between the two countries. The article was given prominence and I noticed that the Niseis who read it were very much impressed. I myself, having fought many years for the Nisei cause and later took over the post as chairman of the Nisei Federation in Japan, was also deeply moved by his statement. Upon my return to Japan, on three different occasion; I learned that he had made a similar statement to all the Niseis who visited him while he held the post of Minister of Education. I made it a point to visit him shortly before the war. In a private interview, I learned for myself that he had a most generous understanding and sympathy of the Nisei position and their concern over the mounting tension between America and Japan. Niseis in Japan at that time were under surveillance. We needed courageous and sympathetic friends to help them out. Hence, when we formed the Nisei Federation in Japan, the first man we chose as our advisor was the former General Araki who willingly accepted the position. He not only addressed the Nisei group time after time,

but was a constant inspiration to the distressed Niseis. In the course of his address, I cannot recall a single incident in which he justified the war between America and Japan.

> Respectfully Submitted, TAKIZO MATSUMOTO

4 September 1947

On this 4 day of Sept., 1947

At the office of Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs.

DEPONENT MA SUMOTO, Takizo (seal)

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I, SUGAWARA, Kuniaki hereby certify that the above statement was sworn by the Deponent, who affixed his signature and seal there to in the presence of this Witness.

On the same date
At the same place
(Office of Paliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs)

Witness: (signed) SUGAWARA, Kunitaka (seal)

OATH

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth withholding nothing and adding nothing.

MATSUMOTO, Takizo (seal)

No. 46, 2 cho-me, Shimoumacho, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo City.

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